

# MARINE ENGINEERS' BENEFICIAL ASSOCIATION (AFL-CIO)

*"On Watch in Peace and War since 1875"*



## M.E.B.A. TELEX TIMES

*The Official Union Newsletter – "The Word to the Wise"*

Number 33 – August 18, 2022



*In this issue//M.E.B.A. Goes to Bat for State Workers in Washington//Final Voyage: Larry Young//Survey Says Most Non-Union Workers Would Join a Union//M.E.B.A. Ship Crew Recognized for Part in Rescue//Online TWIC Renewal//CMES Accepting Resumes for Adjunct Instructors//Members, Applicants Urged to Seek STCW ETO Endorsement//*

### **M.E.B.A. GOES TO BAT FOR WASHINGTON STATE WORKERS**

By order of the Governor, Washington State recently implemented a new policy to make the COVID-19 booster vaccine a condition of employment for state workers, effective July 1, 2023. But the M.E.B.A., which represents Engineers and Oilers in the Washington State Ferry fleet, challenged the mandate on behalf of our members and went to interest arbitration with the State, the first union in Washington State to do so.

Interest arbitration took place the week of July 25, 2022 and along with counsel, Seattle Branch Agent Jeff Duncan and WSF Representative Eric Winge represented the Union. M.E.B.A. believes that mandates are subject to bargaining and we have worked with our shipping companies in the past to secure further compensation for our membership.

Close to the conclusion of the arbitration, M.E.B.A. accepted a settlement agreement making the COVID-19 booster vaccine voluntary, but rewarding those who opt to take the booster with a \$1,000 payment.

Once the M.E.B.A. reached this settlement agreement, the same offer was extended to the other unions throughout the State. Washington State's Governor then updated his directive and state workers are no longer required to get the booster to remain employed.

### **FINAL VOYAGE: LARRY YOUNG, FORMER EVP/L.A. BRANCH AGENT**

Larry Young, who served as M.E.B.A. Executive V.P. and L.A. Branch Agent after years of sea service, sailed into the sunset on August 9 at the age of 70. An all-around good guy, Larry spent 21 years in the U.S. Navy retiring as Master Chief, then joined the M.E.B.A. in 1992. He primarily shipped out of the L.A. hall and sailed off the board for years. Along with his Navy service, he totaled 38 years of seagoing experience. His strong work ethic and know-how got him recognized by West Coast officials and he was appointed as the Representative in the L.A. hall in July 2007. He was elected to L.A.'s Patrolman position soon after and worked diligently with then-Branch Agent Mike Nizetich on contracts and member issues. When Nizzy took over the vacant Executive V.P. position following Ed MacCormack's retirement, Larry was appointed as the L.A. Branch Agent in October 2008, a position which he served with distinction. Sadly Nizzy died in May 2010. Larry was a hardworking and valued official who was the logical candidate to replace him as Executive V.P. and he served until the end of the year when the term ended. He was a resident of Chula, Vista, CA and leaves behind wife Brigitte and children Melanie and Melissa.

A viewing and celebration of life will be held on Sunday, September 4, 2022 from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Funeraria (753 Broadway, Chula Vista, CA 91910). Military honors will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 from 2:15 PM to 2:45 PM at the Miramar National Cemetery (5795 Nobel Dr, San Diego, CA 92122).

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com)

### **SURVEY SHOWS MOST NON-UNION WORKERS WOULD JOIN UNION**

Jobcase, a social platform advocating for workers, released results from a survey showing that 70% of non-union skilled and hourly workers in the U.S. would consider voting to join a union at their primary place of work, if given the opportunity.

Millennials are the most likely to consider doing so, with 76% saying they are likely to consider voting to join a union, compared to 73% of Gen Z, 66% of Gen X and 62% of Boomers.

Among non-union U.S. skilled and hourly workers, 41% are more likely to consider joining a union now, if given the opportunity, than 3 years ago. Fifty percent have a favorable opinion of unions, with 21% saying they have a very favorable opinion. Another 58% believe that unions have their members' best interests at heart, though 17% disagree.

Non-union U.S. skilled and hourly workers cited an increase in pay (57%), improved benefits (56%), and job protection (49%) as the top three reasons they might consider joining a union now. Although Gen Z are generally less likely than other generations to find reasons to join a union now, they are the most likely to say improving their hours and schedule would be a reason to join a union at 44% compared to 40% for Millennials, 28% for Gen X and 28% for Boomers.

"While skilled and hourly workers were rightly heralded as heroes during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, not enough has been done since then to provide these hard-working Americans with higher pay or clear pathways to their success," said Fred Goff, co-founder and CEO of Jobcase. "The lack of progress has caused embers of union movements to fan into flames as workers take action to demand better."

### **M.E.B.A.-CREWED SHIP RECOGNIZED FOR PART IN RESCUE**

The Coast Guard recently recognized the crew of an APL containership for their part in the March rescue of three fishermen from their burning vessel near Japan. Capt. Donald Moore accepted the Coast Guard Certificate of Merit on behalf of the crew at a small event in Guam last week. The award is presented for significant and beneficial contributions to the Coast Guard's Search and Rescue (SAR) mission.

According to the citation, on March 21, 2022, while underway on a voyage from Saipan to Hakata, Japan, the crew observed smoke and flames on the horizon from a fishing vessel approximately eight nautical miles from the HERODOTE's position and 107 nautical miles from Tanegashima Island, Japan. The crew immediately diverted towards the fire where they discovered the Japanese fishing vessel YUJIN MARU No. 51 completely engulfed in flames from the superstructure to the waterline. The HERODOTE crew took immediate action to search for survivors, made radio broadcasts for assistance from vessels in the area, contacted the Coast Guard District in Honolulu and further coordinated SAR efforts with Japan's Coast Guard. They remained on scene and

provided invaluable real-time information to SAR experts. They were joined by a Greece-flagged tanker and soon located three persons in the water, who were then recovered. Sadly, five crewmembers from the burning vessel perished. CMA CGM HERODOTE continued to search for survivors until relieved by the Japanese Coast Guard.

Coast Guard Capt. Nick Simmons who presented the citation to Capt. Moore noted, “The efforts of Capt. Moore and his crew honor the nautical tradition of assisting fellow mariners. Their bias for action and commitment were on display that day. Merchant mariners are an integral part of the global search and rescue enterprise, and especially in the vast Pacific, they are essential to saving lives.”

Simmons added that the crew was very humble about what they’d done and only noted the event as required in their logbook, later read by Coast Guard marine inspectors on a routine visit to the ship.

“We’re very pleased to recognize this team, and without their help, more mariners would have perished that day. Maritime transport is the backbone of the global economy, and we feel that acutely here in Guam, where around 90 percent of goods come into the island through the port. The partnerships we have with industry here are vital to our way of life and security.”

### **ONLINE TWIC RENEWAL**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has enhanced the renewal process for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) by enabling the ability for current TWIC holders to renew their credentials online. This eliminates the need to go to an enrollment center for the renewal process.

Nearly 60 percent of TWIC holders renew their card every five years. Current TWIC demand has overwhelmed enrollment centers and created widespread card renewal delays that require 60 days or longer for processing. Applicants may check their TWIC status online at any time.

Most applicants, including U.S. citizens, nationals, and lawful permanent residents, will be able to renew online without the need to visit an enrollment center. You can visit TSA’s enrollment provider website for information on TWIC enrollments and renewals. If applicants encounter difficulty renewing online, they may contact customer service at (855) 347-8371. For more information on the TWIC program, visit the TSA TWIC website or the Coast Guard TWIC website.

### **CMES ACCEPTING RÉSUMÉS FOR ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS**

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School (CMES) is accepting résumés for a variety of adjunct instructor positions. They are searching for the following disciplines:

- Steam Engineering
- Gas Turbine Engineering
- Diesel Engineering
- Refrigeration
- Container Refrigeration
- Advanced Fire Fighting
- Basic Training

- Proficiency in Survival Craft
- Electrical – various disciplines
- Any other relevant marine engineering experience

Qualifications: Candidates must hold either a Chief Engineer or Captain’s (BST subjects) license; Operational and/or sailing experience within the discipline willing to teach; 40-hr Train-the-Trainer certification is a plus but is not required for applications. Any candidates who are hired that do not have this certification will be required to take this course prior to being submitted for USCG instructor approval. Computer knowledge of Microsoft Word and PowerPoint is helpful.

Please submit résumés via email to [resume@mebaschool.org](mailto:resume@mebaschool.org)

### **MEMBERS, APPLICANTS ENCOURAGED TO SEEK STCW ETO ENDORSEMENT**

The M.E.B.A. membership is strongly encouraged to take advantage of a simplified process to obtain the STCW Endorsement as Electro-Technical Officer. Mariners can earn the endorsement easily by completing onboard assessments followed by notification to the Coast Guard.

The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School has made online guidance available to assist the membership in applying for the endorsement. A School link provides information and documents needed for application: [www.mebaschool.org/curriculum/stcw-electro-technical-officer-endorsement](http://www.mebaschool.org/curriculum/stcw-electro-technical-officer-endorsement)

### **NEXT MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** *(All times are local)*

**Monday, September 5** – Halls Closed – *Labor Day*

**Tuesday, September 6** – **Boston@1200; CMES@1430; Charleston@1400; Houston@1315; Oakland@1230; Seattle (Fife)@1300.**

**Wednesday, September 7** – **Jacksonville@1300; New Orleans@1315; Online HQ “Town Hall” Meeting@1300 (No Voting) – Register by emailing [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org)**

**Thursday, September 8** – **L.A. (San Pedro)@1230; NY/NJ@1300; Norfolk@1300; Tampa@1300.**

**Friday, September 9** – **Honolulu@1100.**

-----FINISHED WITH ENGINES-----



*M.E.B.A. does not tolerate assault, or harassment of any kind.  
If you see something, say something – The M.E.B.A. Emergency Hotline  
can be reached at 1-888-519-0018.*

*The M.E.B.A. is the nation's oldest maritime labor union, established in 1875. M.E.B.A.'s expertise and demonstrated track record of readiness, safety, and loyalty in answering America's call to action in times of both peace and war is unrivaled in the world. M.E.B.A. HQ – Phone: (202) 638-5355; [mebahq@mebaunion.org](mailto:mebahq@mebaunion.org). For publication and related inquiries (and to send photos & hot news tips) contact Marco Cannistraro, M.E.B.A. Special Projects & Communications – [marco@mebaunion.org](mailto:marco@mebaunion.org) Visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and check us out on Instagram.*